

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 IO-03 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DEHAAN, DALE), EWWT, EAID, CY, GR,TU

SUBJ: WAR RISK INSURANCE FOR SHIPS CALLING AT CYPRIOT

PORTS AND REFUGEE RELIEF

REF: ANKARA 7134

DEPT PASS STAFFDEL DEHAAN

1. STAFFDEL DEHAAN AND ECON COULSELOR MET SEPTEMBER 9 WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS TSALDARIS, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF GOG'S REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM FOR CYPRUS. TSALDARIS SAID TURKISH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WATERS AROUND CYPRUS WERE DANGEROUS WAS CAUSING GREEK RELIEF SHIPS TO PAY EXORBITANT INSURANCE RATES (SEE PARA 8 OFREFTTEL).

2. GREEK SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION (GSA) INFORMED EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 11 THAT GOG MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE HAD INFORMED GSA ABOUT AUGUST 19 THAT WATERS AROUND CYPRUS WERE NO LONGER CONSIDERED DANGEROUS. HOWEVER, SHIP INSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE CONTINUED TO CHARGE PREMIUM OF

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15 PERCENT FOR WAR RISK COVERAGE FOR SHIPS CALLING AT CYPRIOT

PORTS.

3. AMERICAN EXPORT LINES (AEL) AGENT IN CYPRIOT PORT OF LARNACA HAS ASSURED ATHENS AEL AGENT THAT PORT OPERATIONS ARE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY AND HAS RECOMMENDED AEL SHIPS RESUME TWICE MONTHLY CALLS AT LARNACA. AEL ATHENS AGENT HAS SO RECOMMENDED TO AEL NEW YORK, BUT HAS YET TO RECEIVE RESPONSE.

4. AS HE HAD ADVISED STAFFDEL, TSALDARIS MET GREEK PRESS SEPTEMBER 10 AND STATED GOG HAD ASSUMED BURDEN OF PROVIDING 6.5 MILLION CYPRIOT POUNDS MONTHLY IN DIRECT BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT WHILE ALSO CONTINUING TO PROVIDE TEBTS, BLANKETS, CLOTHING, FOOD, AND SHIPPING. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT U.S. HAD PROVIDED CYPRUS WITH ABOUT \$3.5 MILLION IN TENTS, BLANKETS, FOOD, AND AIRLIFT. BOTH ITEMS WERE CARRIED IN GREEK PRESS SEPTEMBER 11. TASCA

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